UNITED
NATIONS

TD

United Nations Conference
on Trade and Development

Distr.
LIMITED

TD/B/L.895
14 March 1990

Original: SPANISH

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Thirty-sixth session
Second part
Geneva, 12 March 1990
Agenda item 6

ARRANGEMENTS AND PREPARATIONS FOR THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Report of the President of the Board on his Consultations

1. In its decision 377 (XXXVI) of 13 October 1989, referring to UNCTAD VIII, the Board mandated its President "to undertake consultations on the location in Latin America and dates during 1991 of the Conference, and to report thereon to the Board at the second part of its thirty-sixth session in order that the Board might make a recommendation to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session ...".

2. The General Assembly, in paragraph 10 of its decision 44/219, took note of Board decision 377 (XXXVI) "on arrangements and preparations for the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in 1991, including the agreement to hold consultations on its location in Latin America".

3. Before beginning my consultations, I received a letter, dated 12 December 1989 (see Annex I), by which the Co-ordinator of the Latin American and Caribbean Group informed me that that Group had agreed:

(a) "that the Latin American and Caribbean region should be the site of the VIII Conference of UNCTAD, as decided by the TDB;

(b) to accept and support the repeated offer of Cuba to host the Conference; and

(c) that the date for the Conference in the second semester of 1991 should remain subject to further consultations".

4. In the same vein, in a letter dated 23 January 1990 (see Annex II), the Chairman of the Group of 77 in Geneva informed me that "the Group decided to accept and support the offer of Cuba to host the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development".

5. On 19 February 1990, I addressed a letter to the Co-ordinators of Group B, Group D and to the Permanent Representative of China, asking for their views and ideas on this matter and requesting them to provide me with their reactions to the specific proposal referred to above. I also requested their countries' views with regard to suggestions that have been made that the Conference be held in the weeks immediately preceding the commencement of the general debate of the 46th session of the U.N. General Assembly.

6. In a letter dated 21 February 1990 (see Annex III), the Deputy Permanent Representative of China replied that his Government "accepted and expressed its support to the offer of Cuba to host this important session of the Conference".

7. In a letter dated 21 February 1990 (see Annex IV), the Co-ordinator of Group D replied that his Group "welcomes the offer of Cuba to host UNCTAD VIII", and that it "took note of the acceptance and support of this offer by the Latin American Group and the Group of 77".

8. In a letter dated 13 March 1990 (see Annex V), the Co-ordinator of Group B replied that this question had been examined with all due attention by the members of Group B and that in their view:

- the country currently offering to act as host was not likely to assemble a consensus among members of Group B;

- a consensus on the venue for UNCTAD VIII constitutes, in the view of the members of Group B, a desirable element to ensure the success of the Conference."

9. I conducted informal open-ended consultations in Geneva on 12 and 14 March 1990 on this item, in which the views and positions indicated above were generally reiterated by the respective representatives and spokesmen.

10. With regard to the timing of the Conference, there seems to be general agreement among members of the Board that it should take place sometime in the middle of 1991, between May and September.

Oscar R. de Rojas
President of the
Trade and Development Board

READEX

Delegación Permanente del Uruguay
GINEBRA
DP/200/89

Geneva, December 12, 1989

Dear Ambassador,

I wish to advise you that at the meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Group held today, it was agreed:

a) That the Latin American and Caribbean region should be the site of the VIII Conference of UNCTAD, as decided by the T.D.B.

b) To accept and support the repeated offer of Cuba to host the Conference, and

c) That the date for the Conference in the second semester of 1991 should remain subject to further consultations.

Yours sincerely,

J.A. Lacarte

Ambassador Julio A. Lacarte-Muró
Co-ordinator of the Latin American
and Caribbean Group

Ambassador Oscar R. de Rojas
President of T.D.B. UNCTAD
Permanent Mission of Venezuela

Geneva

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Annex II

THE GROUP OF 77
GENEVA

Geneva, 23 January 1990

Excellency,

I have the honour to inform you that, at the meeting of the Group of 77 in Geneva held on Friday 19 January 1990, the Group decided to accept and support the offer of Cuba to host the eighth session of the United Nations conference on Trade and Development.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest considerations.

Yours sincerely,

Ambassador E.A.AZIKIWE
Permanent Representative of Nigeria
Chairman of the Group of 77 in Geneva

Ambassador O. R. de ROJAS
President of the 36 Session of the Board
Permanent Mission of Venezuela

MISSION PERMANENTE DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE POPULAIRE DE CHINE
A GENÈVE
11, CHEMIN DE SURVILLE - 1213 PETIT-LANCY, GENÈVE
TEL. (022) 92 25 48

21 February 1990

Your Excellency,

It's a great pleasure for me to receive your telefaxed letter dated 19 February 1990 in which you requested the response from my country on the venue and timing for the eighth session of UNCTAD. I am pleased to inform you, dear Mr. Ambassador, that my government already accepted and expressed the support to the offer of Cuba to host this important session of the Conference. This is reflected in my reply letter to H. E. Ambassador E. A. Azikiwe, Chairman of the Group of 77, on 1 February 1990, which was copied to you at the same time. On behalf of my government, I now would like to confirm to you, Mr. Ambassador, that this position of my country remains unchaged.

With regard to the timing of the eighth session of the Conference, I still believe that it is most appropriate for it to be convened in between June and July 1991 rather than in the weeks immediately preceeding the commencement of the General Debate of the 46th Session of the General Assembly. To put it frankly, Mr. Ambassador, I doubt very much that delegations could make proper preparations for the Conference during the summer recession and that they will have enough time to prepare for and participate in the Conference should it be held just prior to the General Assembly. My delegation will, however, be always ready to cooperate with you and the regional groups in the forthcoming consultations for a consensus on this matter.

Please accept, Mr. Ambassador, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Li Zhimin
Deputy Permanent Representative
Minister Counsellor
Permanent Mission of China

H. E. Ambassador Oscar R. de Rojas
President of the Trade and Development Board
Director-General for International Economic Affairs and Cooperation
Ministry of Foreign Relations, Caracas, Venezuela

TD/B/L.895
Annex IV

STALE PRZEDSTAWICIELSTWO
POLSKIEJ RZECZYPOSPOLITEJ LUDOWEJ
przy BIURZE ONZ
w GENEWIE

REPRESENTATION PERMANENTE
de la REPUBLIQUE POPULAIRE DE POLOGNE
auprès de l'OFFICE DES NATIONS UNIES
à GENEVE

15, chemin de l'Ancienne Route
1218 Grand-Saconnex Genève
tel.: 022/98-11-61

N.44-16-90/UNCTAD

Geneva, 21 February, 1990

Dear Mr. President,

Thank you very much for your telefax dated 19 February 1990. Indeed you are entrusted by the Trade and Development Board pursuant to its Decision 377 (XXXVI) of 13 October 1989 with the very demanding task to undertake consultations on the location in Latin America and dates during 1991 of UNCTAD VIII. I may add on a personal basis that we appreciate very much your efforts in this particular respect.

At this stage of your informal consultations I am able to convey to you that the Group "D" welcomes the offer of Cuba to host UNCTAD VIII. It also took note of the acceptance and support of this offer by the Latin American and Caribbean Group and the Group of 77 in Geneva. As far as the dates for the conference are concerned we have not discussed that matter in detail but we are ready to consider any rational proposal enabling the smooth conduct of its meetings.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

P.F.B

Dr. Piotr Freyberg
Minister - Counsellor Plenipotentiary

Mr. Oscar R. de ROJAS
President of the Trade and
Development Board
The Secretariat of UNCTAD
Palais des Nations
8-14, av. de la Paix
1211 Geneve 10

Translated from French

PERMANENT MISSION OF FRANCE TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA

Geneva, 13 March 1990

Sir,

By a letter dated 19 February 1990, you kindly asked me about the reactions of the Group B countries to the proposal, supported by the Group of 77, to hold the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in Cuba.

This proposal was given all warranted attention by the members countries of Group B, which consider that in the conduct of its deliberations on the choice of a venue for UNCTAD VIII, the Trade and Development Board should endeavour to seek a consensus conducive to the full participation of all members of the Conference.

I therefore wish to confirm to you the tenor of our telephone conversation in February:

- The country currently offering to act as host is not likely to assemble a consensus among the members of Group B;

- A consensus on the venue for UNCTAD VIII constitutes, in the view of the members of Group B, a desirable element to ensure the success of the Conference.

I am convinced that the consultations you have initiated will lead to a solution that will enable all member countries of UNCTAD to unite the efforts in an atmosphere of co-operation and understanding, in order to make UNCTAD VIII a success.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest personal consideration.

(Signed): J. D. Levitte
Ambassador

H.E. Mr. Oscar R. de Rojas
President of the Trade and Development Board
Permanent Mission of Venezuela
18a chemin François-Lehmann
1218 Grand Saconnex